

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. For reasons as indicated on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 15-17 have been renumbered as claims 14-16, respectively. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 are amended. Further, the specification and the Abstract have been amended for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added.

Applicant appreciates and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7, 11-13 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. However, for reasons as discussed below, it is believed that all of the claims are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on August 13, 2003. Applicant has not yet received from the Examiner, a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

II. Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 7, 11 and 12 based on formal matters. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Drawing Correction and Submission of Formal Drawings

Applicant corrects Fig. 1 of the application. In particular, original reference numeral 12 should be 22 and original reference numeral 22 should be 12. Furthermore, Applicant submits Figs. 2-17 as replacement drawings to originally filed Figs. 2-17.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Brienza (U.S. Patent No. 4,166,423); rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Meier (U.S. Patent No. 4,301,753); and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Brienza in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 4,479,446). The rejections are respectfully traversed. In particular, Brienza does not disclose or suggest a sewing mechanism in which a needle thread is used, and a cassette mount to which a thread cassette, while in a closed state, holding the needle thread used in the sewing mechanism is detachably attached, as recited in independent claim 1; does not disclose or suggest a thread cassette, while in a closed state, holding a needle thread supplied to a sewing mechanism of a sewing apparatus, as recited in independent claim 14; and does not disclose or suggest a cassette mount to which a thread cassette, while in a closed state, holding a needle thread used in the sewing mechanism is detachably attached, as recited in independent claim 15.

Brienza, in Fig. 3, discloses a bare thread bobbin with a thread wound thereon. Generally, after a thread wound on the thread bobbin is used up, a sewing machine user sometimes reuse the thread bobbin by winding on it, a thread they would like to use. In this case, the user sometimes winds on the thread bobbin a thread which is different from the originally wound one, without paying attention to the original combination of the thread bobbin and thread. Thus, in Brienza, the thread actually wound on the thread bobbin by the user is erroneously detected by the sewing machine as the originally wound thread. Thus, there is no guarantee that the combination of a thread and thread bobbin is constant, and a type of the thread cannot properly be detected.

In contrast, claims 1, 14 and 15 recite a thread cassette, while in a closed state, holds the needle thread used in the sewing mechanism. Thus, the combination of the thread cassette and the thread does not change. Accordingly, when the type of the thread cassette is detected,

a constant thread type corresponding to the thread cassette can be detected. Therefore, the erroneous detection as in Brienza can be avoided.

Claim 10 recites a control device controlling the informing unit according to the type of the thread cassette determined by the determining unit.

For reasons as discussed above, nowhere does Brienza disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 10.

Meier does not compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Brienza. Meier discloses at Figs. 1-4, a sewing machine incorporated with a tape recorder so that information about digital patterns recorded on a tape is sequentially supplied into a memory 62. The Office Action on page 3 asserts that "Meier discloses a sewing apparatus comprising a sewing mechanism 50, Fig. 1 in which a thread (viz. the continuous strand of tape within cassette 12) is used, a cassette mount 13, 14, etc., to which the thread cassette 12 holding the thread used ..."

However, claims 1, 3, 4, 14 and 15 recite that the sewing mechanism or informing unit is controlled according to the type of the identified thread cassette. Thus, the claims differ from the control of a cassette tape, as asserted in the Office Action.

Furthermore, Meier does not automatically recognize a type of the cassette 12, but instead, information recorded on the tape is reproduced so that the sewing apparatus is controlled according to the reproduced information (see Summary of the Invention of Meier). Therefore, Meier does not disclose or suggest the features of the claims.

Johnson also does not compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Brienza and Meier. Johnson merely discloses a means for detecting when a workpiece holder is not present (see claim 21).

Therefore, independent claims 1, 10, 14 and 15 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-9, 11-13 and 16 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore also

define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:YSC/jam

Attachments:

Amended Abstract
Replacement Sheets
Form PTO-1449

Date: November 18, 2004

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 1-17 and replaces the original sheets with Figs. 1-17.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets